

Agenda Item #11.B.



STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY • GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING & PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS
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DATE: February 1, 2012

TO: Board Members

FROM: Linda Ruyters
Administrative Analyst

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

Listed below are some of the key bill bills that the Board has been following. An updated version of this report will be distributed to Board members at the Board meeting.

- **SB 60 – Mental Health: State Hospitals** Amends existing law requiring a mental health patient determined to be a high-security risk to be treated in the department's most secure facilities, and other patients to be treated near the patient's community. Deletes these provisions governing evaluation and treatment, and instead requires a risk evaluation upon commitment to any state hospital of a patient who is being committed pursuant to any provision of the Penal Code. *IN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS – NOT HEARD. The Board supported this legislation and sent a Letter of Support to Senator Evans on March 30, 2011.*
- **SB 103 – Regulatory Boards: Expert Consultants** Authorizes a state body, to the extent practicable, to conduct teleconferencing meetings. Requires a state body to provide a supplemental live audio broadcast on the Internet Web site of its board meetings that are open to the public unless it is determined to be too costly. Prohibits teleconference meetings as a matter of convenience. Requires a body that operates an Internet Web site to provide a supplemental live audio or video broadcast on the Web site of board meetings open to the public. *IN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS – HELD IN COMMITTEE. The Board opposed this legislation and sent a Letter of Opposition to Senator Liu on June 20, 2011.*
- **SB 538 – Nursing** Extends the application of existing law regarding the employment of specified personnel to investigate and prosecute all violations related to the State Board of Registered Nursing. Extends the operation and meetings of the board. Specifies that the board is subject to review by the appropriate committees of the Legislature. Requires certain schools of nursing to adhere to requirements of existing law relating to granting nursing degrees. Subjects such schools to fees. Authorizes cease and desist orders. *VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR ON 10/09/11.*

- SB 544 – Professions and Vocations: Regulatory Boards Relates to the investigation of a licensee of the Department of Consumer Affairs, agreements to settle civil litigation by a licensee, the audit and review of the processing of inquiries and complaints by healing arts boards, healing arts boards licensee investigations, unprofessional conduct, crime conviction reporting by licensees, health arts license suspension and revocation, healing arts licenses and registered sex offenders, out-of-state and federal government licensees, and the Physical Therapy Act. *IN SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – NOT HEARD.*
- SB 747 – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Patients Requires physicians and surgeons...licensed vocational nurses...psychiatric technicians...to complete at least one course of at least two to five hours on cultural competency, sensitivity, and best practices for providing adequate care to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. Requires licensing entities to enforce these requirements. *VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR ON 10/09/11.*
- B 794 – Battery: Gassing Provides that a person confined to a state hospital who commits battery upon the person of a peace officer or employee of a state hospital by gassing is guilty of aggravated battery, punishable by imprisonment. Requires the Department of Mental Health to submit a report regarding gassing incidents at state hospitals. *IN SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY – HEARD, REMAINS IN COMMITTEE. The Board supported this legislation and a Letter of Support was sent to Senator Blakeslee on April 4, 2011.*